

Reply Dated December 20, 2002

Serial No. 09/231,271

A/
cont

threshold, and to recouple the power supply to the line circuit responsive to a predetermined time interval having passed.--

--11. (Amended) A method of protecting a line circuit connected to a telephone subscriber line and to a separate power supply from an over-voltage condition, the over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined voltage threshold value, comprising the steps of:

A/

- a) checking for a presence of the over-voltage condition;
- b) starting, responsive to the over-voltage condition being present, a first timer of predetermined duration;
- c) disconnecting, responsive to the timer having expired and to the over-voltage condition being present, the line circuit from the power supply and from the telephone subscriber line;
- d) waiting a predetermined amount of time; and
- e) reconnecting the line circuit to the power supply and to the telephone subscriber line.--

A/3

--16. (Amended) A method of protecting a line circuit connected to a telephone subscriber line and to a separate power supply from positive and negative over-voltage conditions, the positive over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined positive voltage threshold value and the negative over-voltage condition being defined as when voltage on the telephone subscriber line exceeds a predetermined negative voltage threshold value, comprising the steps of: